

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 454 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT JERUSALEM CAIRO 11 FEB

QUOTE

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DEPT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: NA DECLASS 2/11/75

TAGS: EAID, SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJ: UNRWA FINANCES

REF: USUN 450

FOLLOWING APPROACH BY UNRWA WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN, IN
NEXT DAY OR TWO SYG WILL ISSUE SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS
TO ALL UN MEMBERS. WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED
SPECIAL APPEAL TO US GOVT IN LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 8 FROM
SYG ADDRESSED TO SECSTATE KISSINGER. ACCORDING TO SYG'S
OFFICE, THIS IS ONLY INDIVIDUAL APPEAL SENT BY SYG

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYG'S LETTER:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY,
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I AM WRITING TO YOU TO ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER MAKING AN EXTRAORDINARY ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA-THE UN AGENCY THAT PROVIDES EDUCATION, HEALTH AND RELIEF SERVICES TO OVER A MILLION PALESTINIAN REFUGEES--WHICH FINDS ITSELF IN A MOST PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION.

THE EFFECT OF THE CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1973 AND THE IMPACT OF SHARPLY RISING PRICE LEVELS IN ITS AREA OF OPERATIONS, AGGRAVATED BY THE OCTOBER WAR, HAS BROUGHT THE AGENCY CLOSE TO FINANCIAL COLLAPSE.

THE UNRWA BUDGET, ENTIRELY FINANCED FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, ANTICIPATES A 1974 DEFICIT OF \$12.5 MILLION. IN ADDITION, \$16.5 MILLION IS NEEDED TO CARRY OUT ESSENTIAL WORK IN AMELIORATING CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS, ADD ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM FACILITIES AND ALLOW THE AGENCY TO CARRY ON TO THE NEXT YEAR WITHOUT A BREAKDOWN.

WHAT IS URGENTLY REQUIRED IS A ONE-TIME EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION WHICH WOULD ASSURE THE CONTINUATION OF UNRWA'S MINIMAL SERVICES AND ALLOW AN ORDERLY TRANSITION TO WHATEVER NEW ARRANGEMENTS MAY EMERGE FROM THE GENEVA DISCUSSIONS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AS A MEMBER OF UNRWA'S ADVISORY COMMISSION, AND AS THE MOST GENEROUS CONTRIBUTOR TO THE FINANCES OF UNRWA, IS WELL INFORMED ON THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE IMPLICATIONS THAT COULD ARISE FROM A DEFICIT OF THIS PROPORTION.

IT IS A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN TO ME THAT JUST AT THE MOMENT WHEN, DUE IN VERY GREAT MEASURE TO YOUR OWN EFFORTS, SOM REAL PROSPECT OF PEACE HAS AT LAST ARISEN, THE SERVICES OF UNRWA TO THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES MAY HAVE TO BE SHARPLY REDUCED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THERE IS NO QUESTION, IN MY VIEW, THAT SUCH REDUCTIONS W8LL HEIGHTEN TENSIONS AND RESULT IN MOST UNFAVOURABLE REPRECUSSIONS IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THE REFUGEES NOW RESIDE.

WHILE MANY COUNTRIES HAVE INCREASED THEIR PLEDGES FOR 1974, THERE STILL REMAINS A SIZEABLE GAP. IT IS BECAUSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SIZE AND URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM AND IN AWARENESS OF THE UNFAILINGLY GENEROUS RESPONSE OF YOUR COUNTRY TO HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS THAT IT MAKE THIS EXTRAORDINARY APPEAL FOR HELP TO YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. SECRETARY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL UNQTE.
SCHAUFELE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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